

## BACKGROUND READING FOR STAFF INSTITUTE, JUNE 4, 1971

*From "The City as a Community" by Gerald Leinwand*

As their children grew up and the need for big houses and better schools diminished, some of the suburbanites have returned to the central city. Indeed, there is reason to believe that the central city may be gaining a new lease on life; its advantages are better understood and appreciated, while its shortcomings are being more vigorously attacked.

Actually, city and suburb, both part of the process of urbanization, must work together if the people in both are to prosper. Neither city nor suburb can fail to take the other into account. It is because they have failed to do so for so long that such hard problems have developed for each. The future of metropolitan areas depends on finding a better way of harnessing the resources of city and suburb and planning for the years ahead.

### HOW MAY CITIES BE MORE EFFECTIVELY PLANNED?

Many of the ills associated with city and suburban life are the result of lack of planning. The effects on the city of the streetcar, the subway, the automobile were essentially not anticipated. Instead, new patterns of growth were thrust upon older existing structures. It is this lack of planning that has led to traffic jams, slums, congestion, air and water pollution, and mounting crime.

By "planning" we mean taking into account those forces that are shaping the city and looking ahead in order to change them if necessary or provide for them if possible. In most modern cities, such "looking ahead" has not been effectively done. Yet this lack of adequate provision for the future is strange, since America's history shows a strong concern for city planning....

Today, city planning has become an art as well as a science. It involves, for example, the setting aside of some areas for housing and others for industry. It involves zoning to make the best use of the land, so that what is built will not be entirely the result of the blind pursuit of profit. Suburban areas have been almost as guilty as the central city of a failure to plan. Thus, shopping centers are often built too close to residential communities, and bars and poolrooms begin to be found in these neighborhoods. Building standards have not been observed, so that shoddy housing, even in the suburbs, exists side by side with more durable structures. Failure to plan adequately for storms and for sewage has meant flooding of highways and basements.

Today planning must take many forms. It involves the urban renewal of older neighborhoods. It must be regional in nature to take into account the interrelations that exist between city and suburb. Provision must be made not only for housing, but for creating industries on the one hand and adequate schools on the other, not only to provide effective workers and professionals, but to make the good life possible.

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*Probably the greatest obstacle to effective planning has been the many governments of which the metropolitan regions are composed. Fear of higher taxes, fear of loss of power, fear that special interests and privileges may be lost have prevented these governments from working together. The federal government is beginning to help in many ways. Yet unless local governments "hang together," they may all "hang separately," as slums, vice, crime, poverty destroy the city and suburb as good places in which to live.*

#### WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE CITY?

Surely the city will be far different from what it is today. It probably will be more spread out than ever before, although it is equally likely that a central hub, which will be the commercial heart of the city, will still be identifiable. New modes of transportation and other technological changes will alter the appearance of the city and change the relationships that exist among cities and between the central city and the suburb.

New political forms will probably have to develop so that city and suburb can work together with the state and federal government in planning for future growth. As part of such planning one can look forward to the development of so-called "New Towns," which are self-contained communities in which, it is hoped, the good life can be enjoyed by all. In such towns an effort is made to obtain a balance between home and industry. This is done not only to provide jobs but also to provide tax support for the services the community needs.

Reston, Virginia, which was started with public funds and has recently begun to be supported by funds from private industry, is one example of a New Town. New Towns provide for variety in housing accommodations--large apartment houses, garden apartments, row houses, and detached private homes.

Usually there is provision for a well-located shopping center, and ample space is given to greenways, grass-covered areas that connect the various parts of the New Town. Such communities are usually limited in size, but what the best size should be is not always clear. What is clear is that in these New Towns there seems to be provision made for variety and growth, but not so much growth as to promote the congestion and indifference commonly associated with large cities. The best size for a city has been a problem that has been debated since Plato and Aristotle in ancient Greece gave their attention to it. It is still a problem which has not been settled, nor will it be settled soon.

*"The future potential for the urban complex is great. Our tools for achieving this potential are imperfect and are still in the process of development. But a nation which is affluent, which is willing to face up to social problems and which is excited by its possibilities has a real future."*

The biggest question is: Will public and private interests make possible adequate city planning, or will self-interest, greed, and desire for immediate gain continue to lead to hasty gratification and leisurely repentance? Will the city meet the challenge posed by the current wave of newcomers it must now serve? And will the newcomers follow the example of the older settlers and also move to the suburbs? To the virtues that made conquering the wilderness possible must be added others, which have always been at work but have not been sufficiently appreciated. These virtues are cooperation and a willingness to share in making the city all that it is capable of being.



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DO NOT CIRCULATE****STAFF INSTITUTE - 6/4/71****MORNING SESSION****(TRANSCRIPTION OF TAPED RECORDING)**Welcome - Betty Martin

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to your Institute. This is our 13th Annual Institute which is a day set aside from our usual routines in order that we have an opportunity to explore some new ideas, to gain information on a given topic, and just generally to enjoy each other's company.

There are some special guests here today--some special people I would like to introduce. First of all--and if they would, please, stand--there's Ann Silliman. Ann was our cataloger before her retirement, and I understand that today is her birthday, so Happy Birthday, Ann. I just found out right before the meeting that today was also Nina's birthday, so Happy Birthday to Nina.

We have two new staff members that many of you may not have met, and I thought rather than wondering around who they were that I'd better introduce them this morning. So first of all, there's Mrs. Kaythern Liehr, who is the new branch clerk at Plaza North Branch. Kaythern. And the young lady who did the registration this morning that most of us at Main know, but many of the others may not, Mrs. Carol Weaver, who is secretary-clerk of Public Services office.

Who's that strange man on the front row?

You would! Now you just be quiet, Harmon! You just wait. I would like to say that I'm awfully glad that Irene McDonough and Mary Barnhart are able to be with us today, and we hope it doesn't get too hot and too difficult for you both. If Harmon wasn't such a noisy soul up here... Lastly, I would like to introduce to you the visiting lecturer in library science at the University of Kentucky, our own absentee director, Mr. Ed Howard.

The 1971 Staff Institute is entitled "The Future of the City as a Community." Now a city may be described in many ways: a unit of government, a center of population, a center for commerce, but the city as a community is concerned with people living and working together for common purposes. The future of any city depends upon its people's willingness to work together to make that city all that it is capable of being. If the city is to flourish and offer the good life for all of its citizens, it must be done with planning--that looking ahead and taking into account all of the forces that do shape the city. As members of the Terre Haute community and as staff members of the library community, we are all concerned with what planning is going on that will revitalize Terre Haute and Vigo County.



We have four goals or objectives for today's Institute, and I'll just remind you of those. To arouse interest and awareness of city needs by a brief overview of the physical characteristics of the city. To identify the governmental services that have responsibility for city planning. To explore what is being planned to meet today's needs and tomorrow's challenges. And finally, to suggest areas where the library might provide information or act as a catalyst for city progress.

The methods selected for the program today will take us from the general to the specific. We'll begin by taking a view of modern cities across the world, and then return home to take a new look at our own city. We will then hear from some of the people directly responsible for city planning. These will be via pre-taped interviews. And then comes your opportunity to speak up or react, as we will form into discussion groups after the taped interviews. These will really be something rather unique because each group will have a different resource. On tape again, a person representing an institution or organization and they will explain what their institution does that contributes toward city planning, community development.

Now this is going to be the real work session for all of us, and I hope that each of you will feel your own responsibility to participate and take part in that discussion group.

Now then lunch should be delicious, nutritious and fun and I think we may even have a surprise or two.

Now following lunch we will have an opportunity to kind of catch up with what the other group discussions, what they said, what they heard, because we'll have brief reports from the four discussion leaders immediately after lunch.

An organization that is deeply involved in the future of any city is its chamber of commerce. We're fortunate that Mr. Ralph Tucker, a former mayor of Terre Haute and presently executive director of the Terre Haute Area Chamber of Commerce, will be with us--and this time in person, not on tape--to present the chamber's function in the community. After Mr. Tucker's speech, Mr. Howard will moderate a forum. And here's another place where you should take advantage to ask questions of the opportunity because Mr. Tucker's a very knowledgeable resource person in this area.

Hopefully by the close of this afternoon's session, you will be able to pull together from the information and ideas presented and have a little better understanding and concern for the future of Terre Haute as a community.

Now, I have one arrangement announcement to make. As soon as the discussion groups break up this morning--it will be right at 11:30--we will leave this building for the Hulman Center, Pine Room. The Pine Room is in the basement on the south. Now we will not return to this building. I would like for you to assemble in the lobby at Hulman Center--not go down directly to the Pine Room--but assemble in the lobby of Hulman Center, we will go down as a group to the Pine Room. The reason we're doing this, we're trying to allow the decorating and the program committees time to get the tables and things set up. So if you will meet in the lobby at Hulman Center, we'll all go down to lunch together.

Also if it is necessary for you to return to this building for any reason after the Institute, it will be open for a few minutes to return equipment. Brief

And now if there are no questions, I will turn the program



over to our film librarian, Mrs. Ann Newman.

Introduction to Film, "A Modern Identity," - Ann Newman

The intent of this film is to stimulate the perception of architectural beauty and it presents a challenging concept of a uniquely American creativity. The architecture of every American city reveals world wide influence and a close bond to the many diverse cultures of the past. I feel that our city is a fine example. Look around at how many different cultures are represented in the buildings close by here. Architecture has always searched for a contemporary style, but it was never meant to be lasting because contemporary is only relevant to whatever is present at the time. So "getting rid of" is not a new thing. We must realize that in tearing down, we are not "doing away with" or "ridding" ourselves of the past. Because the very past that is now being torn down was once contemporary of some time. So this leads us into a modern scheme of things with which we can identify.

Film, "A Modern Identity," shown

Presentation of slide set, "Terre Haute - 1970 Survey," - Frances Boyd

You have just taken an architectural trip around the world. Now, let's take a trip around Terre Haute, Indiana...  
...Terre Haute.....a 1971 Survey.....On high ground above the Wabash River, Terre Haute, too, has a modern identity. In our own city, the past lives with the present, and change comes as new architecture takes the place of the old.

However, most of this change speaks of progress. This is evident throughout our community as Amtrak replaces trains like these--in older residential communities such as Ohio Boulevard, as well as in new apartment areas such as the Greenwood Manor Apartments, McDonnell's Woodgate Apartments, or the Heritage Apts.

We see these contrasted with the old County Courthouse and older buildings on Wabash Avenue. Still, even here, the new contrasts with the old as we see the contemporary Hillman's, Wolf's and Meis stores. New shopping Centers also create a changed look--at Plaza North, K-Mart, Great Scott, and Sears Roebuck.

Transportation and industry play their parts in this architectural picture, too. Here we see the Motor Freight Terminal--the Eastern Express Terminal; then a number of the industries that have a vital part in Terre Haute's life: Anaconda Aluminum, J. I. Case, Central Nitrogen, Pillsbury, Midland Glass CO., Weston Paper & Mfg. Co., Stran Steel Corp., Charles Pfizer & Co., Wabash Fibre Box Co., Commercial Solvents Corp., and the railroads also provide their sights and sounds as they move all these products out.

Even our two television stations represent the old and new in architecture: W-TWO and WTHI. Educational architecture in Vigo County is as varied as the kinds of education available.



Meadows School represents the newer elementary schools inside as well as out, while Garfield High School is one of the older high schools soon to be replaced by a new modern building. Indiana State University provides the contemporary look with dormitories such as Sandison and Gillum halls, and the older look with Cunningham Library. The Student Union Building is a contrast on campus with the high-rise Sycamore Towers, and through it all pass the students with their varied costumes and looks.

The past lives with the present, too, as cultural activities are brought to the campus--whether it is the Symphony, William Warfield, or Dionne Warwick, the Roar of the Crowd, Bramwell Fletcher as George Bernard Shaw, Dr. Joyce Brothers or Harry Golden.

New and older architectural forms abound on other campuses--at Rose-Hulman Institute, where freshmen still wear beanies, in Hulman Center for multipurpose activities; on the St. Mary of the Woods college campus in LeFer Hall and Foley Hall, and in the charm of St. Mary's Bridge. At IV Tech the modern has not yet taken on a look of age. The Weldon Talley Playhouse at 25th and Washington on the other hand represents an older building revamped for community theater use. Well-kept and much-used older parks give a community feel to Terre Haute--Deming Park, Fairbanks Park, with its impressive amphitheater and the smaller lovely Gilbert Park. Beautiful old churches show features from old-world architecture in the spires of Centenary Methodist and St. Stephen's Episcopal church, and the St. Stephen's chapel. The Church of Christ, Scientist, Temple Israel, St. Andrew's Roumanian Orthodox Church, St. Benedicts Catholic Church, St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, with a view of its beautiful altar, all represent different older types of architecture, as, of course, does the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.

The Indiana Theater is an out-of-the twenties and thirties building located downtown, as are the Sheldon Swope Art Gallery, with its valuable Greek Amphora piece and the painting, Five O'clock Tea by Mary Fairchild Mcmonies. Also downtown are the Early Wheels Museum, with its old cars, and near downtown the Wabash Valley Historical Museum which can renew memories of early Wabash Valley with its old store and Victorian living room.

Bringing a taste of the past, as well as the memory of a native son, is this view of the sign in front of the Eugene V. Debs home. And with this sign of a past that is being preserved, we end our architectural trip around Terre Haute with a feeling that here in our own community the old is giving way to the new. What will be Terre Haute's new identity?

Taped Interviews with Robert Mann and Golby Uhlir - Harmon Boyd  
(transcribed separately)

Explanation of Discussion Groups & Directions - Genevieve Reisner

I'm sure you are aware that other members of the staff have been busy with tape recorders in addition to Harmon. If you look at your program you will see that four people, listed right down here in the center page, interviewed four other people, all of them are very active citizens and are representatives of some par-



ticular agency or institution here in our community. We plan to divide into groups so that each group will listen to a different taped interview, and then the group will discuss the content of this interview and try to relate it in part, to what was said on these other tapes that we heard. There aren't any numbers here, but if you'll just pretend that there's a number one by Marie's name, number two by Betty's, number three by Jessie's, and number four by mine. Then you look at your name tag, see what number you have on your name tag. That tells you what group you will attend. The first group, Marie Long's, will stay here. The second group will go to the Juvenile room. Jessie Hord will take the third group up to Local History Room. And the fourth group will go into the browsing room.

One word to the leaders who are expected to report back after lunch. We talked about this but I want to further remind you and maybe put to rest some of the fears ~~that~~ the rest of you may be having, remember that each group will listen to a different interview. So when you give your report, you will have to first give a very brief summary of that interview, Otherwise the rest of us, you know, wouldn't know what Jessie was talking about. And if I didn't do this, the other groups wouldn't know what I was talking about. Because they will not have heard the interview. So after lunch the discussion leaders will report first by summarizing briefly the interview and then reporting on what their group said in the discussion. As somebody told you earlier, we will not return to this building. When we break up at 11:30 we will go directly to the Pine Room at Hulman Center. In the lobby. And then later go in a body down to the Pine Room. Did I understand that you're going around and alert people at 25 after or something like that? So when you see Harmon approaching you'll know that you have five minutes left. There is a fifteen minute break. I think we're about five minutes ahead of schedule. I was to have fifteen minutes from 10:15 to 10:30 to explain the discussion groups and give you directions as to where to go. Now according to this clock back here, and I realize that all clocks don't say the same thing in this building, but according to this clock it's just now 10:15. They told me that this fifteen minutes which obviously I wouldn't need, have been put on here in order to allow you to go to the restroom and get a breath of fresh air and what have you. So we'll see you in your groups at 10:30.



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*Libraries (TH) VCPL*  
Vigo County Public Library  
Community Affairs File

June 4, 1971

Mrs. Marie Long, Vigo County Public Library -- Interviewer

Mr. Gerald Dooley, Executive Director of the Wests. Central Indiana  
Economic Development District -- Person Interviewed

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Mrs. Long: He has graciously consented to this interview in order that we, the staff of VCPL, might become better acquainted with this governmental agency. At this time I would like to present to you Mr. Gerald Dooley. In the short time that I have been here in your office, it is very evident to me that you have quite a busy schedule. And I'd like to thank you for taking this time from that schedule. And know if I may, I have a few questions that I would like you to consider. First, what comprises the Economic Development District?

Mr. Dooley: OK; to answer that question, let me give you the definition that the Economic Development Administration uses when setting up an Economic Development District. Their definition is that an economic development district is a group of adjacent counties upon an area which: Number 1, is the proper size to permit effective of the economic development, and by this we mean that enough of the counties are grouped together so that they can <sup>improve</sup> serve the resources and that they are linked by labor markets, by resource trade markets and by natural resources or by transportation; Number 2, It must contain at least two redevelopment counties and of course, here we use the governmental redevelopment <sup>counties</sup> in that their annual unemployment average must be above 6%; Number 3, the economic development district must contain an economic development center, in other words, this is a



group that interconcept, by... there is one city in a district which is one of the greatest <sup>potential for</sup> ~~statistic~~ development is and of course our district is Terre Haute; Number 4, of course the district must be officially designated by the Economic Advise ment Administration after it is recognized and approved by the State of Indiana.

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Mrs. Long: What is the employment picture for this region, is it above or is it below par?

Mr. Dooley: Well, frankly, I think the future of employment picture for the region is good, and I base this on the fact that our transportation network is becoming much better in the area, and as you know, highway 41 <sup>program, south</sup> of Terre Haute is under construction. We expect all of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> contracts to be lent by the end of 1972. This will connect Terre Haute with a 4-lane interstate to Evansville, and then, of course, we still have the northern section to Chicago which will be completed, we feel, within six to eight years. After this, base our transportation network, our educational system, the attractions that Terre Haute does have and the progress Terre Haute has made over the past ten or twelve years. I think we have a very good future in the employment ~~system~~ <sup>picture</sup>.

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Mrs. Long: How do we compare with the other areas considering the length of time that is spent on our district?

Mr. Dooley: Well, our district, the whole district concept was begun in 1965 with the passing of the public works of the Economic Development

Act and the Federal Legislation. We've really been in existence since 1960; since we've designated in 1968. There are approximately 110 districts throughout the United States and the courts were set up in 1965, and most of the districts<sup>are</sup> in the southern southeastern United States, we are the only one in the state of Indiana. This is mainly because of the criteria mentioned before, that you need to set up an Economic Development District. There are very few areas, possibly one or two other areas in the state of Indiana which could become designated as an Economic Development District, because primarily of the unemployment <sup>picture</sup> ~~system~~ of the county. The states in the south: Georgia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi; which every county in these states are in the Economic Development District.

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Mrs. Long: What do you see as the priority needs, when a new industry comes into the community? Well, Education?

Mr. Dooley: Well, education, of course education is a factor, we feel, and I have stated it in several talks that I have given, that the primary thing that an industry looks at when they come into an area, is the profitability of the area. Industry is in this business to make a profit, so the things that cut down costs are the things they look for. Among these of course is a good location for the site. Transportation picture, transportation costs is a big factor. I think the tax structure of a community is looked at, but, I don't think it is looked at as much as a lot people think it is. Housing is of course a factor; when I mentioned transportation, I mean all aspects, rail, highway, in the air. When I mean education is a factor, you have to pin me down on the one key factor that a fellow looks at, I forgot to mention labor, can you get the labor or can't you, is a factor, but the



one key factor is this, and that is transportation.

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Mrs. Long: How about recreation, is that really as important as you hear it is?

Mr. Dooley: Yes it is. Recreation is becoming more and more of a factor in a... you hear of a lot of industries going to the 35 hour week, and a lot of them that <sup>don't</sup> have it are at least thinking about it at this stage of the game. Employees and their families are having much more leisure time, recreation is becoming more and more of a factor. Also, another thing I want mention is the cultural activities in the community, that have been appearing and I think we're fortunate in that aspect, that we have three institutions of higher education, with Indiana State, Rose Hulman, and Saint Mary of the Woods, and I don't think very many communities of 70,000, that have, and, that can say this, that they have this good of an educational network and that they can provide the cultural facilities that we have.

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Mrs. Long: Are the shopping centers a drawing point, or do the people really like downtown?

Mr. Dooley: Well, frankly, I think the shopping centers are a drawing point. Certainly it is much easier for people outside of Terre Haute, to come in on the interstate or come up highway 41, and come down highway 41 to the north and go to Honeycreek Square, or else stop at Plaza North and shop; and as you know, the parking problem itself in the downtown area is a real big problem; and you don't hear of this problem at the shopping centers. You're able to get what you

need<sup>or</sup> shopping centers providing services that's required, providing the goods that people want to buy. And, I think that it's definitely going to have an effect on the downtown business district. I wouldn't say how much of an effect it has had on it, but, it is certainly going to have an effect on the downtown district.

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Mrs. Long: I guess we're going to the more informal and casual life, at least you don't have to dress up when you go to the shopping center. This is true for the children especially.

Mr. Dooley: Yes, that's true.

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Mrs. Long: What do you think of the effect is on the central city itself in the economic growth?

Mr. Dooley: Well, I'm not sure exactly, what the effect is, I think the central city in Terre Haute is certainly not the same as the central city in Chicago, or New York, or Philadelphia, or Los Angeles, or some of the big metropolitan areas, We don't have the large populous of minority groups<sup>in Terre Haute</sup> that they have in other areas. But the idea that idea that a lot of people have toward redeveloping the downtown business district is that you paint the fronts of the stores if you expect people to come into them. My thinking on this is that<sup>if</sup> you really want to improve the downtown business district, and again, I'm not trying to compare Terre Haute with a large city, because this is not fair to Terre Haute to do this, but in your larger cities especially, if you want to increase your downtown traffic, if you want to increase



the number of retail sales, you'll make it in the downtown business district; you've got to increase the incomes of the people who are living adjacent to your downtown area. There are a lot of people in your major cities, downtown, who do not have transportation to get <sup>outside</sup> to your large shopping centers, I'm sure this is the case in Terre Haute also. But, my thinking on this is increasing the downtown traffic, especially in your major cities, is to increase the incomes of the people who are living adjacent to your downtown <sup>business</sup> district. Of course, in Terre Haute there is no doubt the traffic pattern changing some of the traffic patterns as well as parking has got to be a problem.

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Mrs. Long: Do you have any connections with the Wabash Valley Association, the committee, the organization?

Mr. Dooley: Well, no direct connection, other than this, we are members of the Wabash Valley Association, and are very interested in what the Wabash Valley Association is doing. We work <sup>with</sup> George Gettinger in the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission. Before, we expect to continue to work with him, we have listed as one of our pros, also, for the district, the improved water navigation on the area, the flood control project, water supplies, these are all variables of the Wabash Valley Association and certainly those of the Economic Development District. In terms of any direct connection, we have no direct connection other than our organization is a member of the Wabash Valley Association.

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Mrs. Long: Is there any thing else that I <sup>haven't</sup> asked that you, that would be important to us?

Mr. Dooley: Well, only this, and really what I think is important, to how ever you are going to use this case, the whole idea of the Economic Development District is that problems do not stop at the county boundary. We were set up on the idea that what effects Terre Haute, effects other counties around us. Now, I mentioned the Economic Development District, and in the beginning I mentioned that it's a group of adjacent counties in an area. Now the group of counties in our district are these: Clay, Park, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo. Now, we know that Terre Haute probably could not exist the way it is without the labor force commuting in from Sullivan county or from Clay county, or from Park county, or from Vermillion county. We also know that these counties would not be able to be doing what they are doing today if the workers could not come to Terre Haute for jobs. So, the whole bases of the district is that problems do not stop at county boundries to have an effect<sup>ive</sup> development over all developments, you have to group your resources, tool your resources, work together and with an understanding of what benefits one county eventually benefits the other counties.

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Mrs. Long: Thank-you Mr. Dooley for giving this time to me as a representative of Vigo County Public Library. We appreciate your cooperation, and I know that this information will be valuable resource material for our institute.

Mr. Dooley: Thank-you very much.

Mrs. Long: Thank-you..



**REFERENCE  
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An interview done for presentation at the  
Vigo County Public Library Staff Institute on  
June 4, 1971.

Interviewee: Mrs. Jean Conyers

Interviewer: Mrs. Genevieve Reisner



This is Genevieve Reisner with Mrs. Jean Conyers, Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Jean, your agency is also sometimes called the Community Action Program. I wondered now, what the difference was--why the two names?

Well, there isn't really any difference. Community Action Program is out of the Office of Economic Opportunity. It is one of the many programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity. We call it Community Action because we have been so designated, as the words imply, to act in the community with any number of given programs to help eliminate poverty. So we are the Community Action Program of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Oh, I see, in other cities the Office of Economic Opportunity might have a different kind of program....

That's right.

That would not be a community action....

That would not be a community action program. For example there are OEO funds for the aging, there are OEO funds for youth development, so the Community Action Program is one of the programs under the Office of Economic Opportunity.

I see, well that clears it up. I never have been able to get that completely straight in my mind. What then would you say is the purpose, the general purpose, of the Community Action Program?

The general purpose of Community Action Program under OEO is to eliminate poverty. Now that is a very big word. I've heard people say, "Well, the poor are going to be with us always," at least that "10%" or what have you. But we feel that there is something that we can do about it. So we have set out under Community Action to devise programs to help eliminate poverty, to help people upgrade themselves. You know, poverty, itself, has been defined as a low income level; that is to say an income less than three times that of the current cost of living in the city per each member of the households. But we know in addition to its being low income, it creates other problems: problems of dependency, problems of distress, emotional problems about not being able to maintain a given status of living or the feeling of not belonging and not being wanted. So we have taken it upon ourselves through Community Action to do something about the problems that come about because of low income.

Well then in order to try to eliminate poverty and create a better morale among the people with whom you work, what particular programs do you have? By programs I mean--I suppose, you have several different specific programs under Community Action?



Yes, we do, we have our major program under Community Action in the neighborhood centers program. Our Community Action philosophy is that of taking the programs to the people. This means that the services they need, we will try to render them in their area. Render these services where they will be accessible to the poor people. You know, there are facilities downtown but this involves a series of problems; it may be a transportation problem, it may be the lack of funds or it may be simply that they just don't know what exists. So we serve, too, as an information bureau to let the people know, in our target areas, what the services are that are available to them outside the community, what this particular service can do for them, and if necessary provide transportation to them for that particular service. Now one such program is neighborhood centers. Under our neighborhood centers program we provide a series of activities to help upgrade people and to let them know what is going on in the community. The major thing is to organize people in that community to find out what the problems are and to see how we can help them solve their problems.

I want to talk more about these neighborhood centers a little bit later on, but I know there are some other programs under Community Action in addition to the neighborhood centers program. So could we mention those briefly before we zero in on the neighborhood centers.

Well, of course, we do have the Headstart program which is delegated to the Vigo School Corp. Funds come through us and we delegate those funds to the school corporation to run our Headstart program. We have the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program which is funded by the Department of Labor. We have the Youth Development Program which is a quasi-employment program but concentrateing on education and training. We are trying to deal with the whole family concept and we take up our elderly for our programs through the neighborhood center activities.

Just how does the Neighborhood Youth Corp differ from Youth Development? I think a good many of us have heard of Neighborhood Youth Corps and became somewhat familiar with it over the years, but Youth Development is something that is a little newer.

Yes, Neighborhood Youth Corps is for youngsters between the ages of 14 and 18 years of age, in school. We provide a subsistence for the youngsters of low income families so that they may be able to continue in school. We place them in a non-profit organization for work and for some kind of work training. We pay the salary for that.

Now is this on a part time basis if they are in school?

This is on a part time basis if they are in school. Full time basis if they are out of school....

So you work with the 14 to 18 year old group, whether they are in school or whether they are out of school....



That's right, and under Youth Development this takes up to the age of 25. These are young people in the community who have not been able to find themselves or to identify with the community as a whole. Sometimes they may be drop-outs, or sometimes they could be young people employed, you know, who need other services. Who need a shoulder, you know, to cry on or who need advice. Further more we ask them to organize as an advisory council to give input into the Community Action Program as to what their needs are and how we can best help them meet their needs. Now we are concentrating on education and employment through adult education. Through one of our staff members who is a certified teacher, we provide some training for G.E.D. so if they have not completed high school formally they will be able to pass that exam. We coach them in passing that exam. Now more recently we have initiated a postal-clerk type training where-by we get the exams from the post office and we attempt to train some young people so that they will be able to pass the exam and they will have had some exposure to taking the postal exam. Perhaps after trial and failure, or through trial and error several times, they may be able to pass that exam. But we are also interested in employing them--getting them employed in industry where they have no training. What we have asked some of the industries to do is to take some of these people on a kind of on-the-job training basis and perhaps if they work out very well to hire them on a permanent basis. We have asked them to waive their eligibility requirements because, if not, most of the people we are interested in will not be able to meet that first eligibility requirement, particularly if it involves passing a nationalized examination.

Then you try to place these older youngsters under the Youth Development. You try to place them in private industry...

Yes.

And you do not pay their salary...

We do not pay their salary; industry does that. And we also ask for employment opportunities. Very often when positions are available industry contacts us. You know, particularly those who have government contracts and they have to have a certain percentage of minority people employed.

Now do these two programs operate out of the centers too or do they operate mostly out of the main office?

They do operate out of the main office and the centers. You see, during the week, we are housed in our offices, downtown, and there is no one from the Youth Development staff at the center except in the evening. So if there are needs in the evening, they can come to the center or contact the Youth Development director who lives in the target area. Very often he does not



get much free time of his own, because if he is not at the center he is contacted at home about some of the problems that are existing among families - particularly young people in our target areas. But our office is open to them; they can come and make application in our office. At that time eligibility is set up and then the contact is made with industry. But if they cannot come to the office, in the evening they can contact the youth development director at the neighborhood centers.

All right, now let's talk a little more about the centers. I know that in addition to acting as deputy director of the Community Action Program here, you are also the neighborhood coordinator for the centers, isn't that right?

That's right.

So earlier in the interview you had mentioned that there were many different services, many different activities connected with these centers. So I thought perhaps you could elaborate on that...

Yes...

Tell us also---maybe we ought to start out, actually, by telling where they are and how many---before we talk about what they do.

Well, technically we try to set up our neighborhood centers in what we call target areas. Now target areas, to us, are areas where there is a high concentration of low-income families residing, where there is gross unemployment, under employment, poorly educated, and a gamut of other social problems - marital problems, divorce, illegitimacy, delinquency, and -what-have-you. So in order to combat some of these social problems we have set up programs in our neighborhood centers in the target areas where we can be reached by the people by just coming out the door or just a few steps away. We are trying as a matter of fact, to identify more with them and the problems by operating more within the center. In Terre Haute we have five such target areas. We have the Highland area which is 13th to 30th and Ft. Harrison to Maple. And we have the CBC area which is 4th Ave. to Maple and 10th to 30th streets. And we have the Hyte area; it is from Poplar to Hulman and 11th to 16th streets and the West Terre Haute area, particularly the Dresser area. We have a center there, not directly in Dresser but in the basement of the Bethany Church in West Terre Haute, where people can come for our services. And we use the housing areas as our target areas, the low income housing areas: Margaret Ave. housing, Lockport housing, and Dreiser Square housing for the elderly. Now in each of these areas we provide programs of some sort to help them meet the needs. Now what often happens is people in these communities



will meet and discuss what their needs are and what their priorities are for meeting these needs. They will let us know and ask us to come in to render a service; a service they will find useful in their community. Now, in most of our centers we have found that the people want to learn to cook and sew, so consequently we have a foods program to teach people to cook and to sew. It originally started with teaching them how to use commodities.

Does your office have staff to do this or do you make use of other people from other agencies in your foods and sewing programs?

We have a staff to do this. This is called our out-reach staff which is a very important part of the program, because our out-reach workers serve as a liasion between our office and the people in the community. They must come from the target area. Our out-reach staff lives in the target area. They know what the problems are. And consequently we depend on them for feedback from our councils and people in the community on how the programs are getting along, what their needs are, and how we can best help them to meet the needs. Now, our out-reach workers are in-charge of our foods and clothing classes.

And you have given them training?

They have had training--this is where we use other volunteers, in the community, from the university, and from other social agencies and from agricultural extension to train our workers so they will be able to help the people in the community.

I see, I had known that at one time the agricultural extension office was working with some of these target areas in foods and I didn't know just what that relationship was there. So they've been training...

They have been training our out-reach workers in food and clothing. And we have had social work training from Family Service, from Indiana State University, and reading services and how to use the library from yourself-Mrs. Reisner- through the library facilities here.

Do you work mostly with women in daytime programs then at the centers or do you have many programs particularly geared to help the men in those areas?

Our programs are particularly for the women because if it is at all possible the male is employed during the day. So then most of the participants in the program are women other than, of course, our breakfast program that we have for youngsters in the target areas so that they can be given a nutritious meal prior to going to school on that day.



Do they come to the center for breakfast?

They come to the center for breakfast. We have a breakfast program at Margaret Ave. housing, at Hyde center and at CBC center.

Now you mentioned CBC center, and -- giving the geographical location -- that's in the general area of Warren school?

Of Warren school. The people of that community chose to call it CBC. You see this was their own community organization. This is their neighborhood center and they named themselves Citizens for a Better Community. But it is in the Warren school area.

In the school area. And Highland center is in the area of the old Highland school...

Of the old Highland school.

That helps identify them a little more. You work for the young men then in the Youth Development, and you mentioned the fact that if at all possible older men were employed. Is there any program specifically, say, for middle aged men who need to be upgraded in their skills or need just to find employment, period?

We have. That is taken up under Youth Development. Now while they are of all ages ( and this is very unfortunate that we have to extend this for, you know, extend for some guide-lines) but we find that this is the need and we have older men in terms of employment. Their purpose in our centers now is for our PAC (Policy Advisory Committee) - our community organization, our neighborhood organization. They give input to those, they work diligently in the programs to help solve the problems of the neighborhood. For example, if there is a family in that community whose house needs some kind of repair, or painted, the men of the community work with us. You see, we don't have a program specifically at this point in time designed for the middle aged man other than participating in the community and helping to get other people on their feet. So we do not have a crafts program or upholstery program at this time that men would be interested in. We did have an upholstery program that men were interested in but unfortunately we found that after everybody had repaired what they wanted to repair, the attendance in that class fell off drastically. So we found it completely unfeasible to continue that kind of activity.

But you've hinted now at an organization for a community to solve some community problems. And you mentioned house painting



and so on, so I can see that in addition to the specific services that you give, such as teaching people to cook and to sew, finding employment for people who need employment and seeing that kids can stay in school as long as possible, you are actually trying to organize these people into a community where they live. And I really think that this leads us into a consideration of the broader topic that our institute is going to consider when this tape will be played for us to listen to and discuss at our institute on June 4th. And the topic, as you will remember, is: The Future of the City as Community. So let's talk about a few of the needs of these areas on a little broader basis--other than just what the Community Action is doing. One of the questions I would like to ask is about the housing needs and the transportation needs. In these target areas--I'm sure there are plenty of both.

All right, let me begin by saying this: I have found that in our community organization that people generally feel left out. They have looked at the slogan, "Terre Haute: The Pride City", but somehow they feel because of their living conditions, because of conditions of their homes, because of their unemployment status, that they don't have anything to be proud of. So our philosophy of self-help is to organize them so that they can help combat some of the problems and up-grade themselves--perhaps in the long run feel a part of the total community of Terre Haute. First of all I mentioned the conditions of housing. While we did a study with area planning and we found that over one third of the housing in our target areas was sub-standard. Now this does not mean that all of them should be torn down, but there are different levels of sub-standard. This does mean without sufficient windows, without an indoor toilet, adequate running hot and cold water, and the heating ability and what have you. And because of these situations they have found that they were left out. So one of the community organizations decided: "Well now let's see what we can do about it". After there was a study done in the target area on the conditions of the houses, they called all the landlords together and said: "Now perhaps you have a decent standard of living - a decent place to live; why not provide the same for us." So they started working on the housing from that angle and, through the city, trying to get some of the houses torn down and some of the houses repaired. They have been successful in doing that, but that still somehow doesn't give them the pride city feeling. Because continually they are being left out of the mainstream. One of the reasons they are being left out of the mainstream reverts back to the transportation factor. Transportation in Terre Haute, as you know, is very poor and it is even worse for those who cannot afford transportation of their own, with bus service as it is. So consequently they feel somewhat trapped--"I'm trapped here because I cannot afford to buy a vehicle to drive out, public transportation is not adequate enough for me to get out."



And they sure can't afford a cab.

That's right..."and I can't afford a cab; I do not have the funds to be able to afford a cab." So one of the things that we have done in our out-reach activity is a service that is needed. We have been able to transfer them out of that community. We have been able to transport them by our workers using their cars to transport them to services that are needed, that we are not offering them in the community, that they need out of the community. We take them to given services. But here again this does not give them access to social activities outside of the community; so they do not feel a part of the entire community of Terre Haute.

Supermarkets too for instance.

They have to depend on the corner grocery store which is higher. Prices are much higher, much more than they can afford and at this point most of them have so many charge accounts at the corner grocery because they only get paid once a month, from welfare checks, and they have to charge the rest of the month. Well, by the time the next month rolls around they owe all of that to the corner grocer so it just isn't possible for them to ever catch up in order to be able to get to the supermarket. Not only that but they would have to pay for transportation outside of the community to get to the supermarket to save themselves pennies in shopping.

What we need then is much more public transportation.

Much more adequate public transportation, yes. Transportation at a cost that low income people can afford.

What other services are lacking? Can you think of other services?

We did a study some time ago, when I first came into the program, of the Highland area. We found that area was 100% without sewage. And at that time Dr. Duckwall was head of the Health Department and he came out and talked to them and suggested ways for them to approach the problem. And some of the people were able to afford their own septic tanks, but still by and large some of them were still using the primitive means of the outdoor toilet. But now the city administration has gone ahead and laid the foundation for sewage in all our target areas. But the fact is cost; you see they can't afford the 400 dollars to hook up. But we've been told that they will be given over a 25 year period pro-rated on a monthly basis so that they can be able to attach to the sewage. By and large, that problem will be solved very soon, but there are still any number of other problems because of the nature of the environment. Because of the filth, because of the condition around, there are tremendous health problems. At one time the Health Department gave our out-reach workers



rat poison to put in the garbage cans. This was to eliminate the rodent problem in that community. There are problems we are working on, but by and large it is not going to be solved until we can do something about the conditions of the housing.

Are streets on a par with streets other places in the city?

No, they are not. In target areas there are holes in the streets and people call to report, report, report. And eventually something is done about it; but the kind of repair that is done does not last very long, because after a few automobiles travel it, it is in the same condition it was to begin with. So the street conditions have been very poor, but they are being worked on in some of the target areas as well as some other areas of the city.

Well, we have talked about the needs, and we have talked about some of the things that have been done to try to meet these needs. We've talked about the city which has done some things such as installing sewers and hopefully better road repairs in the future. But I think there is something underlying all this that maybe we need to bring out here now in closing. And you have mentioned several times the people's feelings of not belonging, and you have mentioned--in referring to these target areas, you've called them communities--that you take the people out of the community. What you really mean is that you are taking them out of the target area, into the greater city. Now the topic of this whole institute is The Future of the City as Community. So how do you see this idea of community in the city? I remember a long time ago reading a definition of a community which said it was a group of people living within a given location subject to common laws and having common interests. Now it would be pretty hard to think of all of Terre Haute as having common interests. Do you see Terre Haute, for instance, as made up of several small communities?

Yes, because of the sub-culture of poverty. You see, people who are very poor have a standard of living of their own to aspire to, that they cannot even adhere to themselves, at this point. You know, they live differently because (no indictment on them) by virtue of their income, they are made to live differently. They don't have adequate transportation and there are a lot of things that affect the poor adversely; and because of not being able to relate, not knowing what their rights are, not knowing which way to turn, and not being generally incorporated into the mainstream, they feel that they are left out. It could be because of ignorance, not knowing, not having the opportunity to know, not having anybody to come down to tell them--"this is your community, let's work



together". In order for these people to get the feeling of the community they're going to have to be thrown into, or somehow brought into, the mainstream. This has been one of the things we have been trying to work toward particularly in our legal services program. We have people come to us for simple problems, simple domestic problems, problems related to landlord and tenant rights, problems related to civil rights. They don't know this and they want to feel a part of the mainstream and somehow they know these rights are being denied them not only in the community, but in the court, because they do not know what the laws are. And they do not have the funds to adequately pay for things that will help them.

So then are you suggesting that if in these target areas we could build a community spirit (because those people do live within a given locality, they do have common interests and are subject to a common law)--that you can build a community spirit, a small community, which would include just the target area...you can build five of these scattered around through the city. Then, perhaps there could be some relationship between these communities and the larger community of Terre Haute or Vigo County?

Yes, I think to begin with we are going to have to make the gesture. We are going to have to make the overture approach to help people in the target area to feel that this is their community, they are a part of it and to help to incorporate them into the mainstream of the entire community of Terre Haute. And the only way to do it is to use a rehabilitative approach because they have been left out so long, they've got so far up to come before they can even move into the standard of the mainstream. And in order to do this we're going to have to help educate them and help them to be able to use the existing services of the entire community at large--before they can feel that they are completely incorporated in it.

I think you've done a real good job of summing up what needs to be done. It sounds really as if it needs to be done on the level of using all the laws and all the vehicles and all the services that exist plus those of us who feel we are in the mainstream taking a real personal interest in what is going on.

A commitment to action. When I speak of a commitment of action I am reminded of Robert Roland's article called "Listen Christian" in Witness Magazine, I believe. He was talking about the Christian and the person who is hungry and how we give lip service and say, "Oh, what a pity I'm sorry, I'll do what I can," but don't really act. It has to be geared to action. I refer to an excerpt from Mr. Roland: I was hungry and you formed a humanities club to discuss my hunger; I was imprisoned and you crept off softly



to your chapel and prayed for my release; I was ill and you thanked God for you health.

I saw that same thing on the back of our church bulletin one time.

I think that is very good and it strikes at what we are going to have to commit ourselves to. Not lip service, not think about it, not empathy, but action.

But real action and becoming involved---I want to thank you very much for consenting to be interviewed. I think you've done a marvelous job of telling us about your services and expressing the challenge of what needs to be done.

Thank you.



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*Libraries (TH) VCPL*  
Vigo County Public Library  
Community Affairs File

May 19, 1971

Harmon Boyd--Vigo County Public Library, Interviewer

Robert Mann--Executive Director of Area Planning Department  
for Vigo County--Person Interviewed

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Mr. Boyd: Most of us are confused by your title. Will you clarify the role, objectives, and responsibilities of your office?

Mr. Mann: Basically, what we're supposed to do is prepare a comprehensive development plan for the community. By the community, I mean the city, county, and the towns. We are also to prepare as a part of that plan a capital improvements program for accomplishing that plan. That sounds very easy. The real hitch is the word "comprehensive". Comprehensive can mean just what it says--it can be health planning, it can mean social planning, it can mean physical planning of the community, it can mean detailed systems planning, information systems, day to day operations planning, and on and on so that when you come down to it, almost every kind of government operation that is going on, we could be involved under this term "comprehensive planning".

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Mr. Boyd: As we go around town we notice areas that are being torn down and we wonder what's going into that area. We hear rumors but we're not sure of just what to believe. Are there within your office short- and long-range plans for the future of the city?



Harmon Boyd  
Robert Mann

Mr. Mann: We're a commission being responsible for the city and county as well. For the city, yes, there are definitely long-range plans and a limited number of short-range plans at the moment. We need to develop more short-range plans and this is being accomplished along with the development of the County Comprehensive Development Plan. But here again we have the mammoth problem for the county and for the towns-- we have to start a comprehensive development plan from scratch. And in the four years that we've been working, we have been building up materials, data, inventories, reports, and even now, forecasts that really are a part of the master plan of the county and of the city. Every time one of these documents, schemes, or plans is approved, it is a part of the comprehensive plan, and an update of the city comprehensive plan. For the county, the entire county area.

Mr. Boyd: You work with the county and the city?

Mr. Mann: Yes, you see, really we work for the governmental agencies of the city, the county, and the towns of West Terre Haute, Seelyville, and Riley. So, we have 100% coverage from that standpoint. We don't plan just for the county government or just for the city. It's all of it.

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Mr. Boyd: With what other established commissions, agencies, and departments on the local scene, both public and private do you work or cooperate?



Harmon Boyd  
Robert Mann

Mr. Mann: At various times we're involved with almost all the community and sooner or later, we will be involved with all of the community. It just depends on what particular subject you're talking about. We have done work with the NAACP, the Chamber of Commerce, the industrial leaders, all the government units of one kind or another--parks and so forth, comprehensive health groups, school corporation, private industries of all kinds when it comes to how to develop their land, federal agencies of all kinds, Bureau of the Census, Health/Education and Welfare, Housing Urban Development, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Housing Administration, Internal Revenue Service, and so on. Really that's what the word "comprehensive" means again--we really are embroiled in a great variety of items of work. However, we do have two major projects going on for the entire study area--that is, the entire county. One of them is that we are developing a comprehensive development plan for the entire area. The city has one but we're updating that one as we go along and it will be turned into one big master plan.

At the same time we're doing a very sophisticated transportation plan study. And in most communities both jobs are so vast that they have two separate study staffs and two separate departments doing this work. In our city, it's more economical to do it this way. We're doing it with one department and this is one reason why it takes a little bit longer. Basically, the transportation study, for example, takes approximately five years for anybody in the whole United States to do. We're



Harmon Boyd  
Robert Mann

taking 5.3 years.

Mr. Boyd: Do you work with Urban Renewal also?

Mr. Mann: Yes, we do. Urban Renewal is an implementation agency. The theory behind how this is supposed to be in a community is this: the agency responsible for the comprehensive development plan develops that plan. In that plan will be specific projects of all kinds. Certain kinds of projects fit an Urban Renewal Administration process. So, those projects that are indentified that could become Urban Renewal, then the Urban Renewal Department picks those up, analyzes them to decide which one they should follow through on, then they go into a more detailed kind of project planning, more specific which applies individually to streets and sewers and so forth, within each block of each city.

Mr. Boyd: You handle that part of it?

Mr. Mann: No, we do not handle that detailed kind of part or work. But we make sure that it's a part of the overall comprehensive development plan.

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Mr. Boyd: What do you think is going to happen to the downtown area, in your opinion--the character of life? Will it center around senior citizens, university students, commuters, or what?



Harmon Boyd  
Robert Mann

Mr. Mann: Well, of course, our downtown is undergoing a transition and has been for a number of years. If you go back to six or seven years ago--it's very difficult to pin an exact date on this--we had a very strong downtown area in comparison to what the nation had already gone through as a whole. Most areas our size, the cities had already pretty well started a major decline or had really fully experienced it. But we had a strong, healthy downtown area at that point in time. And it's quite possible and highly desirable that shopping center complexes be developed along with a strong downtown. Now the downtown that we used to know will never exist again within my lifetime--that's a certainty. The transition that's occurring is one in which there will be more emphasis--in our case especially since we have a downtown university--on the students. There will be somewhat more emphasis possibly on some of the elderly, although we have a problem as to just where are the elderly going to be located in future years through apartment complex developments and so on. Right now they're pretty well scattered but of course, the housing for the elderly which is being developed currently or has been during the past few years are having a tendency now to concentrate them a little more than the community has experienced in the past.

Mr. Boyd: Do you think they'll concentrate downtown?

Mr. Mann: At this point it's anybody's guess. We haven't



Harmon Boyd  
Robert Mann

run any trend studies--we do run these kinds of studies to make these kinds of determinations. In this particular regard, we have not. We have run studies on the elderly in social communities and value factor studies, as they are called, but not as it relates to the downtown.

Mr. Boyd: Do you have any idea what types of shops will go in downtown?

Mr. Mann: Yes, basically, we see less likelihood of new major department stores and possibly even some out migration of some of the existing department stores with more and more emphasis-- we've been saying this for a number of years even before it occurred and now it's actually occurring and we're still holding the same viewpoint--more in the line of specialty shops will be attracted into the downtown area and certain kinds of services. Exactly what kinds, we don't know. But banks, for example, would be one kind. It seems like the banks have pretty well decided to stay here--they have branch banks but the main offices are in the downtown area. And there is absolutely nothing wrong with this at all. I'm not trying to emphasize that. What I am trying to say is that it appears that they will continue to stay and along with them certain kinds of insurance offices and other offices that are attracted because they conduct their business back and forth, realtors' offices and so forth.

Mr. Boyd: What about specialty shops, something that would cater to the students? Is that a possibility?



Harmon Boyd  
Robert Mann

Mr. Mann: Yes, that's actually taking place, this kind of specialty shops. A long time ago--ten or fifteen years ago--people across the nation were saying "why don't we have better transportation networks into our cities to attract more people in from the suburbs and all this." If you'd make a historical study of this almost all of the talk was about bringing them into the city and few people realized that the same road that brings them in will let them get out, encourage them to get out, in fact. And really, it's had the opposite reaction. More and more people are dispersing over the countryside. So, we have had "decentralization" and everybody's familiar with the term. We are experiencing here in our community a substantial "decentralization". While the county has not grown a whole lot in actual population increase over the last ten years, we have had an actual increase. We are still experiencing a substantial new growth development in the county area on the basis of the trend out from the city into the county area. For example, we have approximately 120 active subdivisions in our county, scattered all over the county. Some of these are very, very small, just a few homes, and some of them are larger. We don't have any one single big tract developer.

Mr. Boyd: Is there anything in the future, a large developer?

Mr. Mann: No, not what we would call a large developer. There is talk about new developments. In fact our department is working right now on an "operation breakthrough" program with the federal government where there's a good possibility through



Harmon Boyd  
Robert Mann

these efforts there may be 100 to 180 new dwellings come in as one project. And that usually is considered a large project for this community.

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Mr. Boyd: Do you feel that leadership seminars and conferences should be conducted on community and area problems such as city and county planning?

Mr. Mann: Yes, a certain amount very definitely should be done because more and more planning is taking its place in our local community especially more so than what a lot of people feel. I think the average public and even some planning agencies are not doing it correctly, I feel. The average public has the wrong concept of what planning is all about. They keep thinking that it's a 20-year plan--always 20 years in the future. We don't envision it that way. What we are doing is developing tomorrow's plan and a year later, a plan for a year after up to five, ten, and twenty years in the future. Every year that transpires we extend that another year into the future. By tomorrow, I'm talking about the very next day. We are doing things that are having immediate impact on people today. There are a lot of different things. For example, we are very definitely involved in this "operation breakthrough" in attracting these 100-180 units here. It's taken 18 months of work leading up to this point by our office. We're involved in sign and street ordinances. We're doing water and sewer planning and programing. This is not a his-

Harmon Boyd  
Robert Mann

torical survey--this is for the future, the immediate future. What should be developed and in order to get federal funding. We're doing the same thing for land use development, for shopping center locations, for industrial type of development, for new streets, roads, highways, new interchanges, overpasses, bridges, and so on. These are all things that are going on right now and plans are coming out almost day by day.

Mr. Boyd: How can people be made aware of this? Do you think they know about this?

Mr. Mann: No, I don't think that everybody knows about it and unfortunately, I don't feel that the average citizen--I can look back at my own involvement or lack of it before I got involved in government work--and I don't think the average person is too concerned until he realizes it might have an impact on him and then he becomes concerned. If it affects him adversely, especially, he may have to put up a new address on his house, etc. At that point he becomes very much involved and concerned. There may have been talk on television and all kinds of advance warnings and alertings and they heard about it but didn't realize the ramifications because concern really hadn't hit them yet. Unfortunately a lot of the community is this way; the whole United States is this way. There are always those people, though, who are very much attuned to what is going on currently and those people are always aware. But I know this department has made all kinds of efforts to get our ideas across to the community and so forth over the last ten years.



Harmon Boyd  
Robert Mann

Mr. Boyd: You're open with your work? You try to put it out so people will know about it?

Mr. Mann: That's right. Now, some of the work we do--a certain amount of it--is of such a technical nature that nobody would really have an interest. Yet, we publish it and make it available to anybody who wants it. We publish an annual report and last year we gave 600 copies of this annual report out and we let everyone know in the report what is available in the office and invite everyone that has a need to come and we'll assist them in any way we can. Mainly, we're here to assist the local government units--that's the reason we're here--not for the federal system. We only involve the federal government to get the funds in and help. We're here primarily to help the county government, the city government, the Library Board, as well, the school districts, town governments, and so forth. Thereby, we help the people.

Mr. Boyd: Well, thank you, Mr. Mann, and I appreciate the time you've given us for this. Maybe we can get together and help you with some of these conferences and seminars.

Mr. Mann: Thank you very much.

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NOTE: This is a transcription of a cassette tape of a personal interview between Mr. Harmon Boyd, Vigo County Public Library, Interviewer, and Mr. Robert Mann, Executive Director of Area Planning Department for Vigo County, on May 19, 1971.